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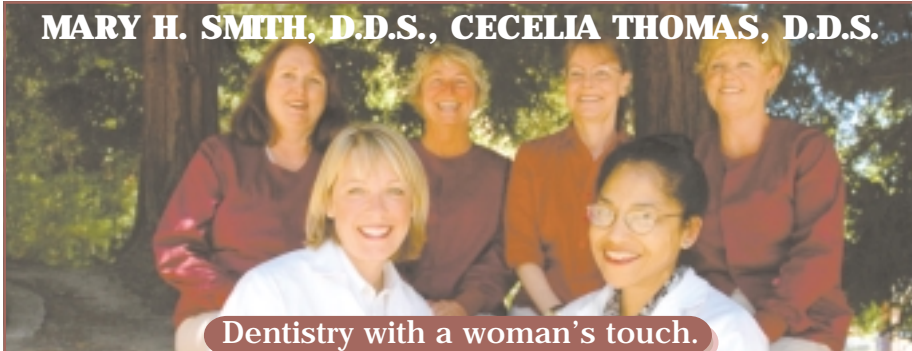
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**Way to Grow in Orinda**  
*A Rose, is a Rose, is a Rose...*  
*Or is it?*



Steve & Cathy Lambert

Since we began writing our garden column for *The Orinda News* in 2005, we have dedicated the February article to America's favorite flower, the rose. The well-known saying; a rose, is a rose, is a rose . . . may be true but to those of us who know and love roses it seems to be a bit of an understatement.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Excelenz von Shubert** is an eye-catcher with its full, double blooms in colors ranging from violet to purple.

There is an abundance of classifications, varieties, and species of roses far beyond the commonly known classic hybrid tea or floribunda roses. These include the Carpet Rose, China Rose, Rosa glauca, Oregon Damask/Hybrid Musk, and Shrub roses, to name a few.

One of the easiest roses to plant and grow is the Carpet Rose. Some may say this rose is over-planted and over-used but we say, where else can you find a quick-spreading shrub that's covered with blossoms almost year-round? It's no wonder this type of rose is so popular.

low hedge.

Since their introduction, new varieties of Flower Carpet Roses have been released nearly every year. There are now six colors available including coral, red, apple blossom, white, pink, and yellow. For an incredible color combination, try planting the bright pink Flower Carpet Rose with Salvia "Victoria" and/or purple-leaved Chinese fringe plant (*Loropetalum rubrum* in Sizzling Pink.)

First introduced to America in 1995, the Flower Carpet Rose was the product of more than 30 years of breeding by German grower Noack Rosen. He wanted to create a hardy rose that was easy to grow and care for and resisted diseases and pests. Rosen's Pink Flower Carpet Rose achieved all his goals in a beautiful, two to three-foot-tall shrub that thrives with almost no care and blooms continuously throughout the summer.

For a larger show of almost year-round color, try one of the China Roses. Our favorite of the China Roses is the Butterfly rose (*Rosa Mutabilis*). We still had a few blooms on our China Rose in mid-December after many frosty mornings. This spectacular rose got its name from the multitude of blooms which go through a myriad of color changes as if the bush is

Flower Carpet Roses will grow well in any sunny location. They need no special care or feeding aside from moderate watering and occasional hard pruning. Although it's not to our taste, we've even seen these roses successfully pruned into a

[SEE ROSES page 18]

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